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ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Prepared by the Secretary-General

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Item 1. Election of officers

1. Rule 15 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council provides that "at the commencement of its first meeting of a regular session the Commission shall elect, from among the representatives of its members, a Chairman, one or more Vice-Chairmen and such other officers as may be required".

Item 2. Adoption of the agenda

2. Rule 7 of the rules of procedure provides that "the Commission shall at the beginning of each session, after the election of its officers, ... adopt the agenda for that session on the basis of the provisional agenda".

3. The Commission will have before it the provisional agenda (E/CN.4/1996/1 and Corr. 1) prepared by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 5 of the rules of procedure, as well as the present annotations relating to the items included in the provisional agenda.

Item 3. Organization of the work of the session

4. At its fifty-first session, the Commission decided, in its decision 1995/106, to recommend to the Economic and Social Council that the dates of the Commission's regular session be rescheduled, on one-year trial basis, so that the fifty-second session would be held from 18 March to 26 April 1996. The Economic and Social Council approved the recommendation in its decision 1995/296.

5. The attention of the Commission is drawn to the relevant resolutions concerning control and limitation of documentation (inter alia, General Assembly resolution 33/56 and Economic and Social Council resolutions 1981/83 and 1982/50). Furthermore, the Commission at its past 12 sessions set time-limits for statements (see E/1995/23-E/CN.4/1995/176, para. 13). In view of the existing financial constraints and the overall reductions imposed, the session must be most carefully planned from the outset, bearing in mind the absolute need for maximum effectiveness in the use of the resources available.

6. The attention of the Commission is also drawn to Economic and Social Council decision 1995/277 of 25 July 1995, by which the Council, taking note of Commission on Human Rights decision 1995/115 of 10 March 1995, decided to authorize, if possible within existing financial resources, 40 fully serviced additional meetings, including summary records, for the fifty-second session of the Commission. The Council took note of the Commission's decision to request the Chairman, at its fifty-second session, to make every effort to organize the work of the session within the time normally allotted, the additional meetings to be held only if they prove absolutely necessary.

7. The attention of the Commission is also drawn to Economic and Social Council resolution 1990/48 of 25 May 1990 in which the Council authorized the Commission to meet exceptionally between its regular sessions, provided that a

majority of States members of the Commission so agreed. In this connection, the Economic and Social Council adopted, on 28 July 1993, decision 1993/286 on the procedure for special sessions of the Commission on Human rights.

Working groups

8. The session will be preceded by meetings of the six inter-sessional and pre-sessional working groups referred to in E/CN.4/1996/1, paragraph 3 (a) to (f).

Composition of the Commission

9. The composition of the Commission for 1996 is the following. The term of membership of each State expires on 31 December of the year indicated in brackets.

Algeria (1997), Angola (1997), Australia (1996), Austria (1996), Bangladesh (1997), Belarus (1998), Benin (1997), Bhutan (1997), Brazil (1998), Bulgaria (1997), Cameroon (1996), Canada (1997), Chile (1997), China (1996), Colombia (1997), Côte d'Ivoire (1996), Cuba (1997), Denmark (1998), Dominican Republic (1997), Ecuador (1996), Egypt (1997), El Salvador (1997), Ethiopia (1997), France (1998), Gabon (1997), Germany (1996), Guinea (1998), Hungary (1996), India (1997), Indonesia (1996), Italy (1996), Japan (1996), Madagascar (1998), Malawi (1996), Malaysia (1998), Mali (1998), Mauritania (1996), Mexico (1998), Nepal (1997), Netherlands (1997), Nicaragua (1997), Pakistan (1998), Peru (1996), Philippines (1997), Republic of Korea (1998), Russian Federation (1997), Sri Lanka (1997), Uganda (1998), Ukraine (1998), United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (1997), United States of America (1998), Venezuela (1996), Zimbabwe (1997).

Assistance to Guatemala in the field of human rights

10. At its fifty-first session, the Commission on Human Rights, in its resolution 1995/51, requested the Secretary-General to extend the mandate of the independent expert, Ms. Mónica Pinto (Argentina), so that she might continue to examine the situation of human rights in Guatemala, provide assistance to the Government in the field of human rights, and submit to the Commission at its fifty-second session a report evaluating the measures taken by the Government in accordance with the recommendations made to it. The Commission decided to consider the question at its fifty-second session under the appropriate agenda item. The Economic and Social Council approved that decision in its decision 1995/268.

11. The Commission will have before it the report of the independent expert (E/CN.4/1996/15).

12. The attention of the Commission is also drawn to a note by the Secretariat (E/CN.4/1996/11) transmitting the second report of the Director of the United Nations Mission for the Verification of Human Rights and Compliance with the Commitments of the Comprehensive Agreement on Human Rights in Guatemala (MINUGUA) (A/49/929).

Situation of human rights in Chechnya

13. At its fifty-first session, the Commission heard a statement read out by its Chairman, indicating its consensus agreement concerning the situation of human rights in Chechnya. In that statement, the Commission, inter alia, requested the Secretary-General to report on the situation of human rights in Chechnya during its fifty-second session under the appropriate item of its agenda.

14. The Commission will have before it the report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.4/1996/13).

Situation of human rights in Burundi

15. In its resolution 1995/90, the Commission decided to appoint a special rapporteur to report on the situation of human rights in Burundi and decided to consider this question at its fifty-second session under the appropriate agenda item. Subsequently, Mr. Paulo Sérgio Pinheiro (Brazil) was appointed Special Rapporteur. The Economic and Social Council, in its decision 1995/219 approved the decision of the Commission.

16. The Commission will have before it the report of the Special Rapporteur (E/CN.4/1996/16 and Add.1).

17. The attention of the Commission is also drawn to resolution 1995/11 on the situation of human rights in Burundi, adopted by the Sub-Commission at its forty-seventh session (see E/CN.4/1996/2-E/CN.4/Sub.2/1995/51).

Assistance to Somalia in the field of human rights

18. In accordance with its resolution 1995/56, the Commission will have before it a report of the Secretary-General on the situation of human rights in Somalia and on the implementation of that resolution (E/CN.4/1996/14).

19. In the same resolution the commission decided to continue consideration of the question at its fifty-second session under the appropriate agenda item, in the light of the report of the Secretary-General.

Adverse effects of the illicit movement and dumping of toxic waste and dangerous products and wastes on the enjoyment of human rights

20. In its resolution 1995/81, the Commission on Human Rights decided to appoint, for a period of three years, a special rapporteur on this question, and requested the Special Rapporteur to submit his or her findings, including the list of the countries and transnational corporations engaged in the illicit dumping of toxic and dangerous products and wastes in African and other developing countries, to the Commission at its fifty-second session. Subsequently, Ms. Fatma Zohra Ksentini was appointed Special Rapporteur. The Economic and Social Council in its decision 1995/288 approved the Commission's decision.

21. The Commission decided to continue consideration of the question at its fifty-second session under the appropriate agenda item.

22. The Commission will have before it the report of the Special Rapporteur (E/CN.4/1996/17).

Report of the High Commissioner for Human Rights

23. The General Assembly in its resolution 48/141 of 20 December 1993 decided to create the post of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and, inter alia, requested the High Commissioner to report annually on his activities, in accordance with his mandate, to the Commission on Human Rights and, through the Economic and Social Council, to the General Assembly.

24. The Commission will have before it the report of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (E/CN.4/1996/103), in connection with the present item and with item 21 of the provisional agenda.

Indigenous people

25. In its resolution 1995/32, the Commission decided to establish an open-ended inter-sessional working group of the Commission with the sole purpose of elaborating a draft declaration, considering the draft contained in the annex to Sub-Commission resolution 1994/45, entitled draft "United Nations declaration on the rights of indigenous peoples"; requested the Working Group to submit a progress report to the Commission for consideration at its fifty-second session; and decided to consider the question again at its fifty-second session under an appropriate agenda item to be decided upon.

26. The Working Group met from 20 November to 1 December 1995. The Commission will have before it the report of the Working Group (E/CN.4/1996/84).

27. The General Assembly, in its resolution 48/163 of 21 December 1993, proclaimed the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People commencing on 10 December 1994. In its resolution 49/214 of 23 December 1994, the General Assembly decided to adopt the short-term programme of activities contained in annex II to the report of the Secretary-General (A/49/444) and invited the Commission, at its fifty-first session, to consider the short-term programme with a view to adjusting or supplementing it if required. At its fifty-first session, in its resolution 1995/28, the Commission decided that the final programme of activities for 1995 should be that contained in the annex to that resolution and took note of the recommendation contained in resolution 49/214 of the General Assembly that a second technical meeting on the planning of the Decade should be convened immediately prior to the thirteenth session of the Working Group on Indigenous Populations. The technical meeting was held on 20 and 21 July 1995 and its report is contained in document E/CN.4/Sub.2/AC.4/1995/5.

28. In its resolution 1995/30, the Commission endorsed the recommendation made by the Sub-Commission that the Centre for Human Rights should organize a workshop on the possible establishment of a permanent forum for indigenous people. The workshop was held in Copenhagen from 26 to 28 June 1995 and, in

accordance with the same resolution, the report (E/CN.4/Sub.2/AC.4/1995/7) was transmitted to the Working Group on Indigenous Populations so that its views and suggestions could be submitted, through the Sub-Commission, to the Commission at its fifty-second session. The Commission will have before it a note by the Secretariat (E/CN.4/1996/83), as well as the report of the Working Group on Indigenous Populations (E/CN.4/Sub.2/1995/24). The attention of the Commission is also drawn to its resolution 1995/31 and decisions 1995/108 and 1995/109.

29. At its forty-seventh session, the Sub-Commission adopted resolutions 1995/36 (United Nations Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Populations), 1995/37 (International Decade of the World's Indigenous People), 1995/38 (Discrimination against indigenous peoples), 1995/39 (Permanent forum in the United Nations for indigenous people), 1995/40 (Protection of the heritage of indigenous people) and decision 1995/118 (Study on treaties, agreements and other constructive arrangements between States and indigenous populations).

30. The attention of the Commission is also drawn to draft resolution II and draft decisions 6, 7, 8 and 10 relating to indigenous issues, contained in chapter I of the report of the Sub-Commission on its forty-seventh session (E/CN.4/1996/2-E/CN.4/Sub.2/1995/51).

Item 4. Question of the violation of human rights in the occupied Arab territories, including Palestine

31. In its resolution 1993/2 A, the Commission decided to appoint a special rapporteur with the mandate to investigate Israel's violations of the principles and bases of international law, international humanitarian law and the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949, in the Palestinian territories occupied by Israel since 1967, to receive communications, to hear witnesses and to report to the Commission at its future sessions, until the end of the Israeli occupation of those territories. Following the resignation of Mr. René Felber (Switzerland) at the fifty-first session, Mr. Hannu Halinen (Finland) was appointed Special Rapporteur.

32. The Commission will have before it the report of the Special Rapporteur (E/CN.4/1996/18).

33. The Commission also adopted resolution 1995/1, in which it requested the Secretary-General to report on the implementation of that resolution and to provide the Commission with all United Nations reports issued between sessions of the Commission that dealt with the conditions in which the citizens of the Palestinian and other occupied Arab territories were living under the Israeli occupation. The Commission will have before it the report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.4/1996/20) and a note by the Secretary-General listing the aforementioned United Nations reports (E/CN.4/1996/21).

34. At its fifty-first session, the Commission also adopted resolution 1995/2 on human rights in the occupied Syrian Golan, in which it requested the

Secretary-General to report to the Commission at its fifty-second session. In this regard, the Commission will have before it the report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.4/1996/19).

Item 5. Question of the realization in all countries of the economic, social and cultural rights contained in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and in the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and study of special problems which the developing countries face in their efforts to achieve these human rights, including:

(a) Problems related to the right to enjoy an adequate standard of living; foreign debt, economic adjustment policies and their effects on the full enjoyment of human rights and, in particular, on the implementation of the Declaration on the Right to Development;

(b) The effects of the existing unjust international economic order on the economies of the developing countries, and the obstacle that this represents for the implementation of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

35. At its fifty-first session, in its resolution 1995/15, the Commission decided to consider issues raised in that resolution at its fifty-second session under the appropriate agenda item.

Human rights and the environment

36. In its resolution 1995/14, the Commission took note of the final report of the Special Rapporteur of the Sub-Commission on human rights and the environment, Ms. Fatma Zohra Ksentini (E/CN.4/Sub.2/1994/9 and Corr.1) and requested that the final report be published by the United Nations in all the official languages.

37. The Commission also requested the Secretary-General to submit to the Commission at its fifty-second session, a report containing the opinions of Governments, specialized agencies and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations on the issues raised in the report of the Special Rapporteur of the Sub-Commission.

38. The Commission will have before it the report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.4/1996/23).

39. The attention of the Commission is also drawn to resolution 1995/23 on human rights and the environment, adopted by the Sub-Commission at its forty-seventh session (see E/CN.4/1996/2-E/CN.4/Sub.2/1995/51).

Human rights and extreme poverty

40. At its fifty-first session, the Commission adopted resolution 1995/16, in which it decided to examine the question of extreme poverty at its

fifty-second session under the present agenda item. The attention of the Commission is also drawn to resolution 1995/28 adopted by the Sub-Commission at its forty-seventh session.

Other matters

41. The attention of the Commission is also drawn to draft decision 4, on forced evictions, of the Sub-Commission, contained in chapter I.B, of the report of the Sub-Commission on its forty-seventh session (E/CN.4/1996/2-E/CN.4/Sub.2/1995/51).

42. In accordance with its resolution 1995/15, the Commission will also have before it a note by the Secretary-General transmitting information on steps taken by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights for the drafting of an optional protocol to the Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (E/CN.4/1996/96).

Sub-item (a) Problems related to the right to enjoy an adequate standard of living; foreign debt, economic adjustment policies and their effects on the full enjoyment of human rights and, in particular, on the implementation of the Declaration on the Right to Development

43. At its forty-seventh session, the Sub-Commission adopted resolution 1995/32, in which it requested the Commission to authorize an open-ended working group of the Commission to meet for a period of one week prior to its fifty-third session to elaborate, on the basis of the preliminary set of basic policy guidelines on structural adjustment programmes and economic, social and cultural rights contained in the report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.4/Sub.2/1995/10, chap. II), and in close cooperation with the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, policy guidelines on the subject-matter. The attention of the Commission is drawn to draft decision 5 of the Sub-Commission, contained in chapter I.B of the report of the Sub-Commission on its forty-seventh session (E/CN.4/1996/2-E/CN.4/Sub.2/1995/51).

The right to adequate housing

44. At its fifty-first session, the Commission adopted resolution 1995/19, in which it invited the Special Rapporteur of the Sub-Commission on the right to adequate housing to submit his final report to the Sub-Commission at its forty-seventh session.

45. The final report of the Special Rapporteur (E/CN.4/Sub.2/1995/12) will be available to the Commission at its fifty-second session. The attention of the Commission is also drawn to Sub-Commission resolution 1995/27, adopted at its forty-seventh session.

46. The Commission will have before it a note by the Secretary-General (E/CN.4/1996/91) transmitting the above-mentioned report, contained in document E/CN.4/Sub.2/1995/10.

Sub-item (b) The effects of the existing unjust international economic order on the economies of the developing countries, and the obstacle that this represents for the implementation of human rights and fundamental freedoms

47. At its fifty-first session, the Commission adopted resolution 1995/13, in which it requested the Secretary-General to submit a report to the Commission at its fifty-second session, recommending ways and means to carry out a political dialogue between creditor and debtor countries in the United Nations system, based on the principle of shared responsibility. The Commission decided to consider this question under a new sub-item (b) under the present agenda item.

48. The Commission will have before it the report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.4/1996/22).

Item 6. Question of the realization of the right to development

49. The Declaration on the Right to Development was proclaimed by the General Assembly in its resolution 41/128 of 4 December 1986. The Commission decided to include this question under a separate item on its agenda in its resolution 1989/45.

50. At its forty-ninth session, the Commission adopted resolution 1993/22, in which it decided to establish a working group on the right to development composed of 15 experts with a mandate to identify obstacles to the implementation and realization of the Declaration on the Right to Development and to recommend ways and means towards the realization of the right to development by all States.

51. In its resolution 1995/17, the Commission decided that the Working Group would hold two sessions in 1995 to formulate its recommendations for submission to the Commission at its fifty-second session. This decision was approved by the Economic and Social Council in its decision 1995/258.

52. At the present session, the Commission will have before it the reports of the Working Group on its fourth and fifth sessions (E/CN.4/1996/10 and E/CN.4/1996/24)

53. It will also have before it the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of resolution 1995/17 (E/CN.4/1996/25).

Item 7. The right of peoples to self-determination and its application to peoples under colonial or alien domination or foreign occupation

Situation in occupied Palestine

54. In its resolution 1995/4, the Commission requested the Secretary-General to transmit the resolution to the Government of Israel and to all other Governments, to distribute it on the widest possible scale and to make available to the Commission on Human Rights, prior to the convening of its fifty-second session, all information pertaining to the implementation of the resolution by the Government of Israel. It also decided to consider the

situation in occupied Palestine under this item as a matter of high priority. The Commission will have before it the report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.4/1996/26).

Question of Western Sahara

55. In its resolution 1995/7, the Commission decided to follow the development of the situation in Western Sahara and to consider the question at its fifty-second session, as a matter of high priority, under this agenda item.

Question of the use of mercenaries

56. At its forty-third session, the Commission, in resolution 1987/16, decided to appoint for one year a special rapporteur to examine the question of the use of mercenaries as a means of violating human rights and of impeding the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination. Subsequently, Mr. Enrique Bernales Ballesteros (Peru) was appointed as Special Rapporteur of the Commission.

57. In its resolution 1995/5, the Commission decided to extend the mandate of the Special Rapporteur for three years and requested him to report to the Commission at its fifty-second session on his activities. The Economic and Social Council approved that decision in its decision 1995/254.

58. The Commission will have before it the report of the Special Rapporteur (E/CN.4/1996/27).

Item 8. Question of the human rights of all persons subjected to any form of detention or imprisonment, in particular:

(a) Torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment;

(b) Status of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment;

(c) Question of enforced or involuntary disappearances;

(d) Question of a draft optional protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment

Human rights and forensic science

59. In its resolution 1994/31, the Commission requested the Secretary-General to report to the Commission at its fifty-second session on progress in the subject-matter. The Commission will have before it the report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.4/1996/41).

Right to restitution, compensation and rehabilitation for victims of grave violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms

60. In its resolution 1995/34, the Commission requested States to provide information to the Secretary-General about legislation already adopted, as well as that in the process of being adopted, relating to restitution, compensation and rehabilitation for victims of grave violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms. The Secretary-General was requested to submit a report on this subject, taking into account the information provided by States, to the Commission at its fifty-second session.

61. The Commission will have before it the report of the Secretary-General prepared pursuant to this request (E/CN.4/1996/29 and addenda).

Independence and impartiality of the judiciary, jurors and assessors and the independence of lawyers

62. At its fiftieth session, the Commission in its resolution 1994/41, requested the Chairman of the Commission to appoint, for a period of three years, a special rapporteur on the independence and impartiality of the judiciary, jurors and assessors and the independence of lawyers.

63. At its fifty-first session, in its resolution 1995/36, the Commission requested the Special Rapporteur, Mr. Param Cumaraswamy (Malaysia), to submit a report on his activities within his mandate to the Commission at its fifty-second session. The Commission, at its present session, will have before it the report of the Special Rapporteur (E/CN.4/1996/37).

Staff members of the United Nations and the specialized agencies in detention

64. In its resolution 1995/39, the Commission requested the Secretary-General to continue his efforts to ensure that the human rights, privileges and immunities of United Nations staff members, experts and their families were fully respected. It also requested him to submit to the Commission, at its fifty-second session, a report on the situation of United Nations staff members, experts and their families detained, imprisoned, missing or held in a country against their will, on cases which have been successfully settled since the presentation of the last report, and on the implementation of the measures referred to in the resolution.

65. The Commission will have before it the report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.4/1996/32).

Right to freedom of opinion and expression

66. In its resolution 1993/45, the Commission decided to appoint for a period of three years, a special rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression. Mr. A. Hussain (India) was subsequently appointed as Special Rapporteur on the right to freedom of opinion and expression.

67. At its present session, pursuant to its resolution 1995/40, the Commission will have before it the report of the Special Rapporteur (E/CN.4/1996/39 and Add.1-2)

Children and juveniles in detention

68. The Commission will have before it the report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.4/1996/31), submitted pursuant to Commission resolution 1995/41 on human rights in the administration of justice, in particular of children and juveniles in detention.

Question of human rights and states of emergency

69. The Commission, in its resolution 1995/42 endorsing Sub-Commission resolution 1994/36, recommended that the Economic and Social Council approve the requests made by the Sub-Commission:

(a) To Mr. Leandro Despouy, Special Rapporteur on human rights and states of emergency, to fulfil his mandate, notably relating to the holding of an expert meeting to study non-derogable rights in states or situations of emergency and the international principles to be taken into account in drafting national legal rules, and to establish a database on states of emergency and related human rights questions;

(b) To the Secretary-General to place at the disposal of the Special Rapporteur the necessary human and material resources to enable him to fulfil his mandate in accordance with the foregoing.

In its resolution 1995/34 of 25 July 1995, the Economic and Social Council approved the above requests.

70. The Commission will have before it a note by the Secretary-General (E/CN.4/1996/30) transmitting the updated eighth annual report of the Special Rapporteur of the Sub-Commission on human rights and states of emergency (E/CN.4/Sub.2/1995/20 and Corr.1). The attention of the Commission is also drawn to draft resolution I, in chapter I of the report of the Sub-Commission on its forty-seventh session (E/CN.4/1996/2-E/CN.4/Sub.2/1995/51).

Assistance to States in strengthening the rule of law

71. In its resolution 1995/54, the Commission requested the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly at its fiftieth session on possibilities of obtaining from all relevant institutions, acting within their mandates, technical and financial means to strengthen the capacity of the Centre for Human Rights to provide assistance to national projects aiming at the realization of human rights and the maintenance of the rule of law.

72. The attention of the Commission is drawn to the report of the Secretary-General submitted to the General Assembly (A/50/653).

Question of arbitrary detention

73. At its forty-seventh session, in resolution 1991/42, the Commission decided to create, for a three-year period, a working group composed of five independent experts, with the task of investigating cases of detention imposed arbitrarily or otherwise inconsistently with relevant international standards or the relevant international legal instruments accepted by the States concerned. At its fiftieth session, in resolution 1994/32, the Commission decided to extend for a three-year period the mandate of the Working Group. At its fifty-first session, in resolution 1995/59, the Commission requested the Working Group to submit a report to the Commission at its fifty-second session.

74. At the present session, the Commission will have before it the report of the Working Group (E/CN.4/1996/40 and Add.1)

Sub item (a) Torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment

Special Rapporteur on the question of torture

75. At its forty-first session the Commission, in its resolution 1985/33, decided to appoint a special rapporteur to examine questions relevant to torture. The current Special Rapporteur, Mr. Nigel S. Rodley (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland), was appointed to the post in April 1993.

76. In its resolution 1995/37, the Commission decided to extend the mandate of the Special Rapporteur for three more years and requested him to report on his activities to the Commission at its fifty-second session.

77. At its present session the Commission will have before it the report of the Special Rapporteur (E/CN.4/1996/35 and Add.1).

United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture

78. The United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture was established in December 1981 by the General Assembly (resolution 36/151) for the purpose of receiving voluntary contributions for distribution, through established channels of assistance, as humanitarian, legal and financial aid to individuals who had been tortured and to their relatives. In its resolution 1995/37 A, the Commission expressed its appreciation to those Governments, organizations and individuals that had already contributed to the Fund and appealed to those in a position to do so to respond favourably to requests for contributions, if possible on a regular basis, and annually before the meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Fund, and if possible with a substantial increase in the number and level of contributions in order to take into consideration the ever-increasing demands for assistance. The Commission also called upon the Board of Trustees to report on the increasing need for rehabilitation services for torture victims.

79. The Commission will have before it the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture (E/CN.4/1996/33 and Add.1).

Sub-item (b) Status of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment

80. In its resolution 1995/37 A, the Commission requested the Secretary-General to continue to submit to the Commission annual reports on the status of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment. The Commission will have before it the report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.4/1996/34).

Sub-item (c) Question of enforced or involuntary disappearances

81. In pursuance of General Assembly resolution 33/173, the Commission by resolution 20 (XXXVI) of 29 February 1980, decided to establish for a period of one year a working group consisting of five of its members, to serve as experts in their individual capacities, to examine questions relevant to enforced or involuntary disappearances of persons.

82. The Commission has regularly renewed the Group's mandate since this time, most recently at its fifty-first session when, by its resolution 1995/38, it extended the Working Group's mandate for three years and requested the Group to report on its work to the Commission at its fifty-second session. The Commission will have before it the report of the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances (E/CN.4/1996/38 and Add.1),

Special process on missing persons in the former Yugoslavia

83. At its fifty-first session, the Commission adopted resolution 1995/35 entitled "Special process dealing with the problem of missing persons in the territory of the former Yugoslavia". It requested the expert member of the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances responsible for the special process, Mr. M. Nowak (Austria), to continue his efforts and to submit a report on his activities to the Commission at its fifty-second session. The Commission will have before it the report of the expert (E/CN.4/1996/36)

Sub-item (d) Question of a draft optional protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment

84. At its forty-eighth session, in its resolution 1992/43, the Commission decided to establish an open-ended inter-sessional working group to elaborate a draft optional protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment designed to establish a preventive system of visits to places of detention, using as a basis for its discussion the draft text proposed by the Government of Costa Rica on 22 January 1991, and to consider implications of its adoption and the relationship between the draft optional protocol, regional instruments and the Committee against Torture.

85. At its fifty-first session, in resolution 1995/33, the Commission requested the open-ended working group to meet between sessions prior to the fifty-second session of the Commission in order to continue its work and to submit a new report to the Commission. The Working Group met from 30 October to 10 November 1995 at Geneva.

86. At the present session, the Commission will have before it the report of the Working Group (E/CN.4/1996/28).

Item 9. Further promotion and encouragement of human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the question of the programme and methods of work of the Commission:

(a) Alternative approaches and ways and means within the United Nations system for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms;

(b) National institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights;

(c) Coordinating role of the Centre for Human Rights within the United Nations bodies and machinery dealing with the promotion and protection of human rights;

(d) Human rights, mass exoduses and displaced persons

Sub-item (a) Alternative approaches and ways and means within the United Nations system for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms

Human rights and terrorism

87. In resolution 1995/43, the Commission urged all thematic special rapporteurs and working groups to address as appropriate the consequences of the acts, methods and practices of terrorist groups. It also requested the Secretary-General to continue to collect information on the question from all relevant sources and to make it available to the special rapporteurs and working groups concerned and to the Commission.

88. The Commission will have before it the report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.4/1996/43).

Human rights and HIV/AIDS

89. The Commission, in resolution 1995/44, requested the Secretary-General to prepare for the consideration of the Commission at its fifty-second session a progress report on the development of a human rights component in the joint and co-sponsored United Nations programme on HIV/AIDS.

90. The Commission will have before it the report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.4/1996/44). The attention of the Commission is also drawn to resolution 1995/21, adopted by the Sub-Commission at its forty-seventh session (see E/CN.4/1996/2-E/CN.4/Sub.2/1995/51).

Human rights and unilateral coercive measures

91. The Commission will have before it the report of the Secretary-General on coercive measures unilaterally implemented against developing countries hindering the full realization of all rights, in particular the right of peoples to a minimum standard of living and development (E/CN.4/1996/45), submitted pursuant to Commission resolution 1995/45.

Education and human rights

92. In its resolution 1995/47, the Commission called upon all Governments to contribute, in cooperation with non-governmental organizations, educators and the media, to the implementation of the Plan of Action for the United Nations Decade for human rights education (1995-2004) (A/49/261/Add.1, annex), and in particular to consider the establishment of a national focal point for human rights education, the development and implementation of an action-oriented national plan for human rights education and the creation of a national resource and training centre for human rights education, as foreseen in the Plan of Action. The Commission requested the High Commissioner for Human Rights to coordinate the implementation of the Plan of Action and to carry out the other tasks enumerated therein, with the assistance of the Centre for Human Rights and in cooperation with UNESCO. The Commission also requested the High Commissioner to submit at its fifty-second session his proposals for supplementing the Plan of Action, taking into account the views submitted by Governments in this regard.

93. The High Commissioner submitted his first report on the implementation of the Plan of Action to the General Assembly at its fiftieth session (A/50/698). This report will be available to the Commission.

94. The Commission will have before it the report of the High Commissioner (E/CN.4/1996/51).

Regional arrangements

95. The Commission, in resolution 1995/48, entitled "Regional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights in the Asian and Pacific region", welcomed the three regional workshops on human rights issues which had been held in the region and requested the Secretary-General to facilitate the realization of such regional workshops, to be held regularly, if possible annually, under the regular budget for advisory services and technical assistance. The Commission further appealed to all Governments in the Asian and Pacific region to consider making use of the facilities offered by the United Nations under the programme of advisory services and technical assistance and requested the Secretary-General to give adequate attention to the countries in the region by allocating more resources from existing United Nations funds. The Commission on Human Rights requested the Secretary-General to submit to the Commission at its fifty-second session a further report incorporating information on the progress achieved in the implementation of the resolution.

96. The Commission will have before it the report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.4/1996/46).

Public information activities

97. In its resolution 1995/49, the Commission requested the Secretary-General to submit to it at its fifty-third session a report on public information activities and decided to continue consideration of this question at its fifty-third session under the same agenda item.

Ways and means of overcoming obstacles to the establishment of a democratic society and requirements for the maintenance of democracy

98. The General Assembly, in its resolution 49/30 of 7 December 1994, requested the Secretary-General to study the ways and mechanisms in which the United Nations system could support the efforts of Governments to promote and consolidate new or restored democracies, and to submit a comprehensive report thereon to the Assembly at its fiftieth session.

99. The Commission, in its resolution 1995/60, requested the Secretary-General to circulate to the Commission any materials prepared in response to General Assembly resolution 49/30. The Commission recommended that the Sub-Commission discuss at its next session ways and means of overcoming obstacles to the consolidation of democratic societies, taking into account the relation between democracy, development and human rights; and decided to examine this issue at its fifty-second session, taking into account the outcome of the discussion to be held at the Sub-Commission, as well as the documentation to be submitted by the Secretary-General.

100. At its forty-seventh session, the Sub-Commission adopted decision 1995/116, entitled "Democratic society", in which it requested Mr. Osman El-Hajjé to prepare, without financial implications, a working paper on democracy and the establishment of a democratic society, to be submitted to the Sub-Commission at its forty-eighth session.

101. In response to the request contained in Commission resolution 1995/60, the report of the Secretary-General prepared pursuant to General Assembly resolution 49/30 (A/50/332 and Corr.1) will be available to the Commission at its present session.

102. The Commission will also have before it a note by the Secretary-General (E/CN.4/1996/49).

Respect for the universal freedom of travel and the vital importance of family reunification

103. In its resolution 1995/62, the Commission decided to remain seized of this matter.

Violence against women

104. At its fiftieth session, in resolution 1994/45, the Commission decided to appoint, for a three-year period, a special rapporteur on violence against women, including its causes and consequences, to report to the Commission on an annual basis beginning at its fifty-first session. Subsequently Ms. Radhika Coomaraswamy (Sri Lanka), was appointed as Special Rapporteur.

105. The Commission in accordance with its resolution 1995/85, will have before it a report submitted by the Special Rapporteur (E/CN.4/1996/53 and Add.1).

Question of integrating the human rights of women into the human rights mechanisms of the United Nations

106. The Commission, in its resolution 1995/86, decided to continue consideration of the question as a matter of priority at its fifty-second session.

107. The Commission will have before it a note by the Secretariat, transmitting the report of an expert group meeting on the development of guidelines for the integration of a gender perspective into United Nations human rights activities and programmes, which was organized by the Centre for Human Rights and the United Nations Development Fund, in Geneva from 3 to 7 July 1995, pursuant to part I, paragraph 18, and part II, paragraphs 37 and 42 of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action (E/CN.4/1996/105).

Thematic procedures

108. In resolution 1995/87, the Commission requested the Secretary-General, in close collaboration with the thematic special rapporteurs and working groups, to issue annually and sufficiently early their conclusions and recommendations, so as to enable further discussion of their implementation at subsequent sessions of the Commission.

109. The Commission will have before it a note by the Secretary-General (E/CN.4/1996/47).

110. In accordance with paragraph 18 of the same resolution, a list of all persons currently constituting the thematic and country procedures, including their country of origin, is provided in an annex to the present document.

Sub-item (b) National institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights

111. In its resolution 1995/50, the Commission requested the Centre for Human Rights, with the assistance of national institutions and their Coordinating Committee, to provide technical assistance for States wishing to establish or strengthen their national institutions and to organize training programmes for national institutions which requested them, and invited Governments to contribute additional funds to the Voluntary Fund for the Technical Cooperation in the Field of Human Rights for those purposes.

112. In the same resolution, the Commission noted the importance of finding an appropriate form of participation by national institutions in relevant United Nations meetings dealing with human rights; requested the Secretary-General to invite Member States which had not yet done so to inform him of their views concerning possible forms of such participation, and invited the Secretary-General to include that information in his report to the Commission at its fifty-second session.

113. The Commission will have before it the report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.4/1996/48) and the report of the third international workshop on national institutions held in Manila from 8 to 21 April 1995 (E/CN.4/1996/8).

Sub-item (c) Coordinating role of the Centre for Human Rights within the United Nations bodies and machinery dealing with the promotion and protection of human rights

114. The Commission, in its resolution 1995/64, supported the efforts of the Secretary-General to enhance the role and further improve the functioning of the Centre for Human Rights, under the overall supervision of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, and decided to consider the question of strengthening the Centre for Human Rights, including measures taken in furtherance of that resolution, at its fifty-second session.

115. In its resolution 1995/61, entitled "Composition of the staff of the Centre for Human Rights", the Commission decided to consider this matter at its fifty-second session.

116. The attention of the Commission is drawn to a note by the High Commissioner for Human Rights transmitting the report of the meeting of special rapporteurs/representatives/experts and chairpersons of working groups of the special procedures of the Commission on Human Rights and of the advisory services programme, held in Geneva from 29 to 31 May 1995 (E/CN.4/1996/50 and Add.1).

Sub-item (d) Human rights, mass exoduses and displaced persons

Internally displaced persons

117. In its resolution 1995/57, the Commission decided to extend for a further three years the mandate of the representative of the Secretary-General on internally displaced persons, Mr. Francis Deng (Sudan), and requested him to continue to submit annual reports on his activities to the Commission on Human Rights and to the General Assembly.

118. The Commission will have before it the report of the representative of the Secretary-General on internally displaced persons (E/CN.4/1996/52 and Add.1-2).

Human rights and mass exoduses

119. In its resolution 1995/88, the Commission requested the Secretary-General to prepare, within existing resources, and submit to the Commission at its fifty-second session an update of his report including information on and recommendations and conclusions emerging from the action taken pursuant to that resolution.

120. The Commission will have before it the updated report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.4/1996/42).

Item 10. Question of the violation of human rights and fundamental freedoms in any part of the world, with particular reference to colonial and other dependent countries and territories, including:

(a) Question of human rights in Cyprus;

(b) Study of situations which appear to reveal a consistent pattern of gross violations of human rights as provided for in Commission resolution 8 (XXIII) and Economic and Social Council resolutions 1235 (XLII) and 1503 (XLVIII): report of the Working Group on Situations established by Economic and Social Council resolution 1990/41 of 25 May 1990

121. By resolution 1164 (XLI) of 5 August 1966, the Economic and Social Council welcomed the decision of the Commission in its resolution 2 B (XXII) of 25 March 1966 to consider, at its twenty-third session, the question of its tasks and functions and its role in relation to violations of human rights. In resolution 2144 A (XXI) of 26 October 1966, the General Assembly invited the Council and the Commission to give urgent consideration to ways and means of improving the capacity of the United Nations to put a stop to violations of human rights wherever they might occur. Pursuant to these resolutions, the Commission adopted resolution 8 (XXIII) of 16 March 1967, in which it decided to give annual consideration to an item on the question of violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms. The title of the item was later modified by the Commission. Subsequently, the Economic and Social Council adopted resolutions 1235 (XLII) and 1503 (XLVIII) on the question of violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

122. In resolution 32/130, the General Assembly decided that, in approaching human rights questions within the United Nations system, the international community should accord, or continue to accord, priority to the search for solutions to the mass and flagrant violations of human rights of peoples and persons affected by various situations referred to in the resolution. The Assembly reiterated those views in subsequent resolutions, including resolution 37/199. In resolution 34/175, entitled "Effective action against mass and flagrant violations of human rights", the Assembly urged the appropriate United Nations bodies, within their mandates, particularly the Commission, to take timely and effective action in existing and future cases of mass and flagrant violations of human rights. By resolution 37/200, the General Assembly urged all States to cooperate with the Commission in its study of violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms in any part of the world and requested the Commission to continue its efforts to improve the capacity of the United Nations system to take urgent action in cases of serious violations of human rights.

Human rights violations on the Papua New Guinea island of Bougainville

123. In its resolution 1955/65, the Commission requested the Secretary-General to bring that resolution to the attention of the Government of Papua New Guinea and all parties to the peace process and to report on the situation of human rights. The Commission will have before it the report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.4/1996/58).

Situation of human rights in Cuba

124. Pursuant to Commission resolution 1992/61, Mr. Johan-Carl Groth (Sweden) was appointed Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Cuba. In its resolution 1995/66, the Commission extended the mandate of the Special Rapporteur for one year and requested the Special Rapporteur to maintain direct contacts with the Government and citizens of Cuba, as specified in past resolutions of the Commission, and to submit an interim report to the General Assembly at its fiftieth session and to report to the Commission at its fifty-second session on the results of his endeavours. The Commission will have before it the report of the Special Rapporteur (E/CN.4/1996/60).

Human rights situation in southern Lebanon and western Bekaa

125. In its resolution 1995/67, the Commission requested the Secretary-General to bring the resolution to the attention of the Government of Israel, to invite it to provide information concerning the extent of its implementation thereof and to report to the Commission at its fifty-second session on the results of his efforts in that regard. The Commission will have before it the report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.4/1996/55).

Situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran

126. In its resolution 1995/68, the Commission decided to extend the mandate of the Special Representative, as contained in Commission resolution 1984/54, for a further year and requested him to submit an interim report to the General Assembly at its fiftieth session on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran, including the situation of minority groups, such as the Baha'is, and to report to the Commission at its fifty-second session. By letter dated 28 March 1995 the Special Representative, Mr. Reynaldo Galindo Pohl (El Salvador) communicated to the Chairman of the Commission his resignation from the mandate. Subsequently, Mr. Maurice Copithorne (Canada) was appointed Special Representative.

127. The Commission will have before it the report of the Special Representative (E/CN.4/1996/59).

Situation of human rights in Zaire

128. Pursuant to Commission resolution 1994/87, Mr. Roberto Garretón (Chile) was appointed Special Rapporteur. In its resolution 1995/69, the Commission decided to extend the mandate of the Special Rapporteur for an additional year, and requested him to prepare a report for its fifty-second session. The Commission will have before it the report of the Special Rapporteur (E/CN.4/1996/66).

Situation of human rights in Equatorial Guinea

129. Pursuant to Commission resolution 1993/69, Mr. Alejandro Artucio Rodriguez (Uruguay) was appointed Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Equatorial Guinea. In its resolution 1995/71, the Commission decided to renew the mandate of the Special Rapporteur for one year and

requested him to report to the Commission at its fifty-second session. The Commission will have before it the report of the Special Rapporteur (E/CN.4/1996/67).

Situation of human rights in Myanmar

130. Pursuant to Commission resolution 1992/58, Mr. Yozo Yokota (Japan) was appointed Special Rapporteur. In its resolution 1995/72, the Commission decided to extend for one year the mandate of the Special Rapporteur and requested him to report to the General Assembly at its fiftieth session and to the Commission on Human Rights at its fifty-second session. The Commission will have before it the report of the Special Rapporteur (E/CN.4/1996/65).

Extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions

131. Pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 1982/35, Mr. Amos Wako (Kenya) was appointed Special Rapporteur. Following the resignation of Mr. Wako in March 1982, Mr. Bacre W. N'diaye (Senegal) was appointed Special Rapporteur. In its resolution 1995/73, the Commission decided that the mandate of the Special Rapporteur should be extended for three years. The Commission requested him to submit to it, on an annual basis, his findings, together with conclusions and recommendations, as well as such other reports as the Special Rapporteur deemed necessary in order to keep the Commission informed. The Commission will have before it the report of the Special Rapporteur (E/CN.4/1996/4 and Add.1-2).

Situation of human rights in Afghanistan

132. Following the death of the Special Rapporteur, Mr. Felix Ermacora (Austria), in February 1995, Mr. Choong-Hyun Paik (Republic of Korea) was appointed Special Rapporteur. In its resolution 1995/74, the Commission extended the mandate for one year and requested the Special Rapporteur to consider submitting a report to the General Assembly at its fiftieth session and to the Commission at its fifty-second session. The Commission will have before it the report of the Special Rapporteur (E/CN.4/1995/64). The report of the Special Rapporteur to the General Assembly will be made available to the Commission (A/50/567).

Cooperation with representatives of United Nations human rights bodies

133. In its resolution 1995/75, the Commission invited the Secretary-General to submit a report at its fifty-second session containing a compilation and analysis of any available information on alleged reprisals against those who seek to cooperate or have cooperated with representatives of United Nations human rights bodies, or who have provided testimony or information to them; those who avail or have availed themselves of procedures established under United Nations auspices for the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms and all those who have provided legal assistance to them for this purpose; those who submit or have submitted communications under procedures established by human rights instruments; and those who are relatives of victims of human rights violations. The Commission will have before it the report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.4/1996/57).

Situation of human rights in Iraq

134. In its resolution 1995/76, the Commission decided to extend for a further year the mandate of the Special Rapporteur, Mr. Max van der Stoel (Netherlands), and requested him to report periodically to the Commission on Human Rights and to submit an interim report to the General Assembly at its fiftieth session and a report to the Commission at its fifty-second session. The Commission will have before it the reports of the Special Rapporteur (E/CN.4/1996/12 and E/CN.4/1996/61).

Situation of human rights in the Sudan

135. In its resolution 1995/77, the Commission decided to extend the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Sudan, Mr. Gáspár Bíro (Hungary), for an additional year and requested the Special Rapporteur to report his findings and recommendations to the General Assembly at its fiftieth session and to the Commission at its fifty-second session. Further, it recommended that the Special Rapporteur begin consultations with the Secretary-General on modalities leading to the placement of monitors in such locations as would facilitate improved information flow and assessment and would help the independent verification of reports on the situation of human rights in the Sudan. The Commission will have before it the report of the Special Rapporteur (E/CN.4/1996/62).

Situation of human rights in the territory of the former Yugoslavia

136. Pursuant to Commission resolution 1992/S-1/1, Mr. Tadeusz Mazowiecki (Poland) was appointed Special Rapporteur. Following the resignation of Mr. Mazowiecki in July 1995, the Chairman of the Commission appointed Ms. Elisabeth Rehn (Finland) Special Rapporteur. In compliance with Commission resolution 1995/89, the Special Rapporteur submitted periodic reports in April 1995 (E/CN.4/1996/3), in July 1995 (E/CN.4/1996/6), in August 1995 (E/CN.4/1996/9) and a report to the General Assembly (A/50/727-S/1995/933). The Commission will have before it the aforementioned reports of the Special Rapporteur, as well as an additional report (E/CN.4/1996/63).

Situation of human rights in Rwanda

137. Pursuant to Commission resolution 1994/S-3/1, Mr. René Degni-Ségui (Côte d'Ivoire) was appointed Special Rapporteur, for an initial period of one year, to investigate the human rights situation in Rwanda and receive relevant, credible information on the human rights situation there, including on root causes and responsibilities for the recent atrocities. In resolution 1995/91 the Commission extended the mandate of the Special Rapporteur for an additional year. The Commission will have before it two reports submitted by the Special Rapporteur since the renewal of his mandate (E/CN.4/1996/7 and E/CN.4/1996/68).

Situation in East Timor

138. At its fiftieth session the Commission heard a statement read out by the Chairman indicating its consensus agreement in connection with the situation

of human rights in East Timor. In that statement the Commission, inter alia, requested the Secretary-General to keep it informed on the situation of human rights in East Timor, which it would consider at its fifty-second session. The Commission will have before it the report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.4/1996/56).

Action by the Sub-Commission at its forty-seventh session

139. The attention of the Commission is drawn to the following resolutions adopted by the Sub-Commission at its forty-seventh session that are relevant to the present agenda item: 1995/1, 1995/8 and 1995/10 (territory of the former Yugoslavia); 1995/2 (Middle East); 1995/3 and decision 1995/107 (Iraq); 1995/5 (Rwanda); 1995/6 (Colombia); 1995/7 (Guatemala); 1995/9 (Palestinian and other Arab territories occupied by Israel); 1995/11 (Burundi); 1995/18 (Islamic Republic of Iran); and decision 1995/108 (Turkey) (see E/CN.4/1996/2-E/CN.4/Sub.2/1995/51, chap. II).

Sub-item (a) Question of human rights in Cyprus

140. This question has been considered by the Commission since its thirty-second session, when it adopted resolution 4 (XXXIII) of 27 February 1976. In its decision 1995/113, the Commission decided to give the sub-item due priority at its fifty-second session, it being understood that action required by previous resolutions of the Commission on the subject would continue to remain operative, including the request to the Secretary-General to provide a report regarding their implementation. At its present session the Commission will have before it the report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.4/1996/54).

Sub-item (b) Study of situations which appear to reveal a consistent pattern of gross violations of human rights as provided for in Commission resolution 8 (XXIII) and Economic and Social Council resolutions 1235 (XLII) and 1503 (XLVIII): report of the Working Group on Situations established by Economic and Social Council resolution 1990/41 of 25 May 1990

141. Under the procedure for dealing with communications relating to violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms, governed by Economic and Social Council resolution 1503 (XLVIII) of 27 May 1970, the Commission on Human Rights is called on to examine particular situations which appear to reveal a consistent pattern of gross and reliably attested violations of human rights, referred to it by the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities. Since 1974, particular situations relating to 61 countries have been referred to the Commission by the Sub-Commission under the procedure.

142. To assist the Commission in carrying out its task under the so-called 1503 procedure, the Economic and Social Council, by resolution 1990/41 of 25 May 1990, authorized the establishment, on a permanent basis, of a five-member working group of the Commission, to be referred to as the Working Group on Situations. Prior to that time, the Commission had set up such a working group annually, on an ad hoc basis,

since 1974, with the approval of the Council. The role of the Working Group on Situations is to examine the particular situations referred to the Commission under the procedure, including the situations which the Commission has decided to keep under review within the framework of the procedure, and to make recommendations to the Commission on the course of action to take in respect of each particular situation.

143. Over the years, the Commission has adopted a number of procedural decisions aimed at facilitating government cooperation under the 1503 procedure: the Governments directly concerned are invited to submit written observations on the situations which the Commission has before it (decision 3 (XXX) of 6 March 1974, para. 4); the text of the relevant recommendations of the Working Group on Situations are made available to the Governments concerned prior to the meetings of the Commission (decision 14 (XXXV) of 12 March 1979); the Governments concerned are invited to attend the relevant closed meetings of the Commission, to participate in the debate and to be present during the adoption of the Commission's decisions (decisions 5 (XXXIV) of 3 March 1978 and 9 (XXXVI) of 7 March 1980).

144. All actions taken under the 1503 procedure remain confidential until such time as the Commission may decide to make recommendations to the Council. The documentation pertaining to the procedure is also confidential.

145. At its fifty-second session, the Commission will have before it the report of the Working Group on Situations, as well as other confidential documents pertaining to the sub-item, including the confidential report of the forty-seventh session of the Sub-Commission (E/CN.4/1996/R.1 and addenda) and government replies and observations, as received. In addition, the Commission will have before it the relevant earlier material relating to the situations of which the Commission has been seized. The above-mentioned confidential documents will be handed to the members of the Commission at the session.

146. Chapter X of the report of the Sub-Commission on the work of its forty-seventh session (E/CN.4/1996/2-E/CN.4/Sub.2/1995/51) is also relevant to this sub-item.

Item 11. Measures to improve the situation and ensure the human rights and dignity of all migrant workers

147. The General Assembly, in resolution 45/158 of 18 December 1990, adopted the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families.

148. In its resolution 1995/21, the Commission requested the Secretary-General to report on the status of the Convention and on the efforts made by the Secretariat to promote the Convention and the protection of the rights of migrant workers. At the present session the Commission will have before it the report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.4/1996/70).

149. In its resolution 1995/20, the Commission decided to continue to examine the question of violence against women migrant workers at its fifty-second session.

Item 12. Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination

150. At its forty-ninth session, in its resolution 1993/20, the Commission decided to appoint, for a three-year period, a special rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination and xenophobia and related intolerance, and requested the special rapporteur to report thereon to the Commission on an annual basis, beginning at its fiftieth session. Mr. Glèlè-Ahanhanzo (Benin) was subsequently appointed Special Rapporteur.

151. At its fifty-first session, the Commission, in its resolution 1995/12, requested the Special Rapporteur to continue to examine incidents of contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, any form of discrimination against Blacks, Arabs and Muslims, xenophobia, negrophobia, anti-Semitism and related intolerance, as well as governmental measures to overcome them, and to report on these matters to the Commission at its fifty-second session.

152. The Commission will have before it the reports of the Special Rapporteur (E/CN.4/1996/72 and Add.1-4).

153. In its resolution 1995/11, the Commission took note of the report of the Secretary-General on the Programme of Action for the Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination (E/CN.4/1995/77) and requested the Secretary-General to submit to the Commission a detailed annual report on (a) all activities of Member States, United Nations bodies, the specialized agencies and non-governmental organizations, analysing information received on such activities to combat racism and racial discrimination; (b) measures to be taken to improve the coordination of the activities of the Programme of Action or to supplement, on the basis of the discussions in plenary, the Programme of Action for the Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination. The Commission also requested the Secretary-General to publish and distribute the model legislation on racism and racial discrimination for the guidance of Governments in the enactment of further legislation.

154. The Commission will have before it the report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.4/1996/71).

155. In its resolution 1995/12, the Commission also took note of the recommendation of the Sub-Commission relating to the possible convening of a world conference against racism, racial and ethnic discrimination, xenophobia and other related contemporary forms of intolerance. In its decision 1995/104, the Commission decided to recommend to the General Assembly, at its fiftieth session, to consider the possibility of convening a world conference.

156. The Commission will also have before it the annual reports on racial discrimination submitted by the International Labour Organization (E/CN.4/1996/73) and by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (E/CN.4/1996/74).

157. The attention of the Commission is also drawn to resolution 1995/4, entitled "Prevention of incitement to hatred and genocide, particularly by the media" adopted by the Sub-Commission at its forty-seventh session (see E/CN.4/1996/2-E/CN.4/Sub.2/1995/51).

Item 13. Status of the International Covenants on Human Rights

158. In its resolution 1995/22, the Commission requested the Secretary-General to submit to it, at its fifty-second session, a report on the status of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and on the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and its Optional Protocols, including all reservations and declarations. Accordingly, the Commission will have before it the report of the Secretary-General on the status of the International Covenants on Human Rights (E/CN.4/1996/75), as well as the reservations, declarations, notifications and objections relating to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (E/C.12/1993/39) and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Optional Protocols thereto (CCPR/C/2/Rev.4).

Succession of States in respect of international human rights treaties

159. In its resolution 1995/18, the Commission requested the Secretary-General to report to it at its fifty-second session in regard to action taken on this question.

160. The Commission will have before it the report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.4/1996/76).

Item 14. Effective functioning of bodies established pursuant to United Nations human rights instruments

161. In its resolution 1995/92, the Commission requested the Secretary-General to report on measures that had been taken to establish a computerized database to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the functioning of the treaty bodies, and to give priority to expediting the implementation of the recommendations of the Task Force on Computerization as soon as possible by requesting the States Members of the United Nations, in particular States which were parties to various human rights instruments, to cover the initial one-time cost of the proposed system; and urged the human rights treaty bodies and the persons chairing them to continue to examine ways of reducing the duplication of reporting required under the different instruments and of generally reducing the reporting burden on Member States.

162. In the same resolution, the Commission made a number of other recommendations relating to the effective implementation of international human rights instruments and requested the Secretary-General to report to the Commission at its fifty-second session on measures taken to implement the resolution and on obstacles to its implementation.

163. In the same resolution, the Commission encouraged the High Commissioner, in accordance with his mandate, to request the independent expert to finalize his interim report (A/CONF.157/PC/62/Add.11/Rev.1) on possible long-term approaches to enhancing the effective operation of the treaty system in

time for the final report to be considered by the Commission on Human Rights, as requested by the General Assembly in resolution 48/120, at its fifty-second session.

164. The Commission will have before it a note by the Secretary-General transmitting the final report of the independent expert (E/CN.4/1996/78).

165. At the present session, the Commission will also have before it a report by the Secretary-General on measures taken to implement resolution 1995/92 and on obstacles to its implementation (E/CN.4/1996/77) and on updating the inventory of all international human rights standard-setting activities (E/CN.4/1996/87).

166. In addition, the attention of the Commission is drawn to the report of the Sixth Meeting of persons chairing human rights treaty bodies (A/50/505) and the report of the Secretary-General on financing and adequate staffing resources for the operations of the human rights treaty bodies (A/50/755), submitted to the General Assembly at its fiftieth session.

Item 15. Report of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities on its forty-seventh session

167. The report of the Sub-Commission on its forty-seventh session is contained in document E/CN.4/1996/2-E/CN.4/Sub.2/1995/51.

168. At its forty-seventh session, the Sub-Commission adopted 40 resolutions and 19 decisions, which are reproduced in the report.

169. Chapter I, sections A and B, of the report of the Sub-Commission contains 2 draft resolutions and 10 draft decisions proposed to the Commission for action. They are as follows:

Draft resolutions

I. Question of human rights and states of emergency

II. Protection of the heritage of indigenous peoples

Draft decisions

1. Systematic rape and sexual slavery during periods of armed conflicts

2. Question of the implications for human rights of United Nations action, including humanitarian assistance, in addressing international humanitarian problems and in the promotion and protection of human rights

3. Recognition of gross and large-scale violations of human rights as an international crime

4. Forced evictions

5. Effects on the full enjoyment of human rights of structural adjustment programmes

6. United Nations Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Populations

7. Discrimination against indigenous peoples

8. Permanent forum in the United Nations for indigenous people

9. Human rights dimensions of population transfer, including the implantation of settlers and settlements

10. Study on treaties, agreements and other constructive arrangements between States and indigenous populations

170. Annex IV to the report of the Sub-Commission contains the resolutions and decisions of the Sub-Commission referring to matters which are drawn to the attention of the Commission.

171. In its resolution 1995/26, the Commission decided to invite the Chairman of the Sub-Commission at its forty-seventh session to report to the Commission at its fifty-second session on significant aspects of the work of the Sub-Commission. The Commission also invited its Chairman to inform the Sub-Commission on the debate under this item.

172. The Commission will have before it the report of the Chairman of the Sub-Commission submitted pursuant to Commission resolution 1995/26 (E/CN.4/1996/81).

Minimum humanitarian standards

173. In its resolution 1995/29, the Commission invited all States to consider reviewing their national legislation relevant to situations of public emergency with a view to ensuring that it met the requirements of the rule of law and that it did not involve discrimination on the ground or race, colour, sex, language, religion or social origin. The Secretary-General was requested to transmit the text of the Declaration of Minimum Humanitarian Standards adopted by a group of experts at a meeting in Turku (Abo), Finland, in December 1990 (E/CN.4/Sub.2/1991/55) to Governments and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations for their comments, and to submit a report on the matter to the Commission at its fifty-second session.

174. The report of the Secretary-General submitted pursuant to this request is contained in document E/CN.4/1996/80 and addenda.

Draft programme of action on the traffic in persons and the exploitation of the prostitution of others

175. At its forty-seventh session, the Sub-Commission adopted decision 1995/109, in which it decided to transmit to the Commission the draft programme of action on the traffic in persons and the exploitation

of the prostitution of others (E/CN/4/Sub.2/1995/28/Add.1). The Commission will have before it a note by the Secretary-General, transmitting the draft programme of action (E/CN.4/1996/82).

Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery

176. In its resolution 1995/27, the Commission expressed its regret that as a result of the financial situation of the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery, owing to a lack of contributions, the Board of Trustees of the Fund had only been able to meet once since it had been appointed by the Secretary-General in 1993. The Board of Trustees met in August 1995, for its second session.

177. At its present session, the Commission will have before it notes by the Secretary-General transmitting the reports of the Board of Trustees on its first and second sessions (E/CN.4/1996/85 and E/CN/4/1996/86).

Traffic in women and girls

178. In its resolution 1995/25, the Commission requested the Secretary-General to provide the Commission at its fifty-second session with his preliminary report to be submitted to the General Assembly at its fiftieth session, pursuant to Assembly resolution 49/166. The Commission will have before it a note by the Secretary-General (E/CN.4/1996/79) transmitting that report (A/50/369).

Traditional practices affecting the health of women and children

179. The attention of the Commission is drawn to paragraph 4 of resolution 1995/20, adopted by the Sub-Commission at its forty-seventh session (see E/CN.4/1996/2-E/CN.4/Sub.2/1995/51).

Item 16. Rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities

180. At its forty-ninth session, in resolution 49/192, the General Assembly called upon the Commission on Human Rights to examine, as a matter of priority, ways and means to promote and protect effectively the rights of persons belonging to minorities as set out in the Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities.

181. At its fifty-first session, the Commission, in its resolution 1995/24, decided to authorize the Sub-Commission to establish, initially for a three-year period, an inter-sessional working group consisting of five of its members to meet each year for five working days, in particular to:

(a) Review the promotion and practical realization of the Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities;

(b) Examine possible solutions to problems involving minorities, including the promotion of mutual understanding between and among minorities and Governments;

(c) Recommend further measures, as appropriate, for the promotion and protection of the rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities.

The Economic and Social Council endorsed this decision in its resolution 1995/31.

182. The report of the Working Group on its first session, held from 28 August to 1 September 1995 (E/CN.4/Sub.2/1996/2) is being made available to the Commission at its present session.

183. The Commission will have before it the report of the Secretary-General submitted pursuant to Commission resolution 1995/24 (E/CN.4/1996/88).

Item 17. Advisory services in the field of human rights

184. In its resolution 1995/53, the Commission requested the Secretary-General to report to the Commission on progress made in the implementation of the programme of advisory services and technical cooperation in the field of human rights.

185. The Commission will have before it the report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.4/1996/90).

Situation of human rights in Haiti

186. In its resolution 1995/70, the Commission requested the Secretary-General to appoint an independent expert to furnish human rights assistance and to monitor the situation of human rights in Haiti, and requested the independent expert to report on the implementation of the resolution to the General Assembly at its fiftieth session, and to the Commission at its fifty-second session. Mr. Adama Dieng (Senegal) was subsequently appointed Independent Expert.

187. The Commission will have before it the report of the Independent Expert (E/CN.4/1996/94).

Situation of human rights in Togo

188. In its resolution 1995/52, the Commission strongly encouraged the Government of Togo to continue its cooperation with the Centre for Human Rights through the Centre's programme of advisory services and technical assistance and requested the Secretary-General to submit, at its fifty-second session, with a view to ending consideration of the question, a report on the implementation of that resolution.

189. The Commission will have before it the report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.4/1996/89).

Situation of human rights in Cambodia

190. In its resolution 1995/55, the Commission decided to review the programmes and mandates set out in its resolution 1993/6 at its fifty-second session and requested the Special Representative of the Secretary-General to report to the Commission at its fifty-second session and to provide an interim report to the General Assembly at its fiftieth session. The Commission also requested the Secretary-General to report to the Commission at its fifty-second session on the role of the Centre for Human Rights in assisting the Government and people of Cambodia in the promotion and protection of human rights and on the recommendations made by the Special Representative on matters within his mandate.

191. The Commission will have before it the report of the Special Representative (E/CN.4/1996/93) and the report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.4/1996/92). The attention of the Commission is also drawn to the report by the Special Representative submitted to the General Assembly (A/50/681 and Add.1).

Item 18. Implementation of the Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and of Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief

192. After the proclamation by the General Assembly in 1981 of the Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and of Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief (resolution 36/55), consideration of measures to implement the Declaration was taken up, at the request of the Assembly, by the Commission and the Sub-Commission.

193. At its forty-second session, in resolution 1986/20, the Commission decided to appoint a special rapporteur to examine incidents and governmental actions which were inconsistent with the provisions of the Declaration. Following the resignation of Mr. D'Almeida Ribeiro (Portugal) during the forty-ninth session of the Commission, Mr. Abdelfattah Amor (Tunisia) was appointed as Special Rapporteur.

194. At its fifty-first session the Commission, in resolution 1995/23, decided to extend for three years the mandate of the Special Rapporteur and requested him to submit an interim report to the General Assembly at its fiftieth session and to report to the Commission at its fifty-second session.

195. At its present session, the Commission will have before it the report of the Special Rapporteur (E/CN.4/1996/95 and Add.1-2).

Item 19. Drafting of a declaration on the right and responsibility of individuals, groups and organs of society to promote and protect universally recognized human rights and fundamental freedoms

196. At its fortieth session, the Commission, by its decision 1984/116, decided to establish an open-ended working group to draft a declaration on the right and responsibility of individuals, groups and organs of society to promote and protect universally recognized human rights and fundamental freedoms.

197. At its fifty-first session, the Commission had before it the report of the Working Group on its tenth session (E/CN.4/1995/93). In its resolution 1995/84, the Commission urged the working group to make every effort to complete its task and submit the draft declaration to the Commission at its fifty-second session. The Economic and Social Council, in its resolution 1995/38, authorized the working group to meet for a period of one week prior to the fifty-second session of the Commission.

198. At its fifty-second session, the Commission will have before it the report of the working group (E/CN.4/1996/97).

199. The attention of the Commission is drawn to resolution 1995/25, adopted by the Sub-Commission at its forty-seventh session (see E/CN.4/Sub.2/1996/2-E/CN.4/1996/2).

Item 20. Rights of the child, including:

(a) Status of the Convention on the Rights of the Child;

(b) Report of the Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography;

(c) Programme of Action for the Prevention of the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography;

(d) Question of a draft optional protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the prevention of the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, as well as the basic measures needed for their prevention and eradication

Draft optional protocol on the involvement of children in armed conflicts

200. At its fiftieth session, in its resolution 1994/91, the Commission on Human Rights decided to establish an open-ended inter-sessional working group of the Commission to elaborate, as a matter of priority, a draft optional protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflicts, using as one basis for its discussions the preliminary draft optional protocol submitted by the Committee on the Rights of the Child (E/CN.4/1994/91).

201. At its fifty-first session, the Commission, in its resolution 1995/79, having taken note of the report of the working group (E/CN.4/1995/96), welcomed the progress made and requested the group to meet for a period of two weeks prior to the fifty-second session of the Commission to pursue its mandate. This request was endorsed by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 1995/37.

202. At the present session, the Commission will have before it the report of the working group on its second session (E/CN.4/1996/102).

Protection of children affected by armed conflicts

203. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 48/157, the Secretary-General appointed Ms. Gracia Simbine Machel (Mozambique) as expert to undertake a study on the situation of children affected by armed conflicts, working in collaboration with the Centre for Human Rights and the United Nations Children's Fund.

204. The progress report of the Secretary-General to the General Assembly at its fiftieth session concerning the study on the impact of armed conflict on children (A/50/537) will be made available to the Commission at its present session.

Sub-item (a) Status of the Convention on the Rights of the Child

205. In its resolution 1995/79, the Commission requested the Secretary-General to submit a report on the status of the Convention on the Rights of the Child to the Commission at its fifty-second session.

206. At the present session, the Commission will have before it the report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.4/1996/99) and the reports of the Committee on the Rights of the Child on its eighth (CRC/C/38), ninth (CRC/C/43) and tenth (CRC/C/46) sessions.

Sub-item (b) Report of the Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography

207. At its forty-sixth session, the Commission adopted resolution 1990/68, in which it decided to appoint a special rapporteur to consider matters relating to the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, including the problem of the adoption of children for commercial purposes. Subsequently, Mr. Vitit Muntarbhorn (Thailand) was appointed Special Rapporteur. Following the resignation of Mr. Muntarbhorn in October 1994, Ms. Ofelia Calcetas-Santos (Philippines) was appointed Special Rapporteur.

208. At its fifty-first session, the Commission, in its resolution 1995/79, decided to extend the mandate of the Special Rapporteur for a further period of three years. At its present session, the Commission will have before it the report of the Special Rapporteur (E/CN.4/1996/100).

Sub-item (c) Programme of Action for the Prevention of the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography

209. At its forty-eighth session, the Commission, in its resolution 1992/74, adopted the Programme of Action for the Prevention of the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography. The Commission requested all States to inform the Sub-Commission periodically of measures adopted to implement the Programme of Action and on the efficacy of such measures and requested the Sub-Commission to submit every two years a report to the Commission on the state of implementation of the Programme of Action by all States.

210. The Sub-Commission, at its forty-sixth session, in its resolution 1994/5, requested the Secretary-General to submit to the Commission at its fifty-second session a report on measures adopted to implement the Programme of Action.

211. At the present session, the Commission will have before it a note by the Secretariat (E/CN.4/1996/98) transmitting the report of the Secretary-General to the Sub-Commission (E/CN.4/Sub.2/1995/29 and Add.1), containing the replies received from States concerning the implementation of the Programme of Action.

Sub-item (d) Question of a draft optional protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the prevention of the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, as well as the basic measures needed for their prevention and eradication

212. At its fiftieth session, in its resolution 1994/90, and in follow-up to General Assembly resolution 48/156, the Commission decided to establish an open-ended inter-sessional working group of the Commission on Human Rights responsible for elaborating, as a matter of priority and in close cooperation with the Special Rapporteur and the Committee on the Rights of the Child, guidelines for a possible draft optional protocol on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, as well as the basic measures required for their prevention and eradication.

213. At its fifty-first session, in its resolution 1995/78, the Commission decided that the working group should elaborate, as a matter of priority and in close cooperation with the Special Rapporteur and the Committee on the Rights of the Child, and on the basis of the guidelines contained in annex I of its report (E/CN.4/1995/95, a draft optional protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography. In its resolution 1995/35 the Economic and Social Council endorsed this decision.

214. At the present session, the Commission will have before it the report of the Secretary-General on the second session of the working group (E/CN.4/1996/101).

Item 21. Follow-up to the World Conference on Human Rights

215. In its resolution 1995/80, the Commission on Human Rights requested the High Commissioner to continue to report on the measures taken and the progress achieved in the comprehensive implementation of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action.

216. The Commission will have before it the report of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (E/CN.4/1996/103).

217. The Commission will also have before it a note by the High Commissioner for Human Rights transmitting the report of the meeting of special rapporteurs/representatives/experts and chairpersons of working groups of the

special procedures of the Commission on Human Rights and of the advisory services programme, held in Geneva from 29 to 31 May 1995 (E/CN.4/1996/50 and Add.1).

218. The attention of the Commission is also drawn to its resolution 1995/93, adopted at its fifty-first session under this agenda item.

219. The Commission will also have before it a note by the Secretariat, transmitting the report of an expert group meeting on the development of guidelines for the integration of a gender perspective into United Nations human rights activities and programmes (E/CN.4/1996/105). (See also under item 9 (a), para. 107, above.)

Item 22. Election of members of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities

220. In accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1334 (XLIV) of 31 May 1968 and 1986/35 of 23 May 1986 and decisions 1978/21 of 5 May 1978 and 1987/102 of 6 February 1987, the Commission on Human Rights, at its forty-fourth session in 1988, elected 26 members of the Sub-Commission, as well as their alternates, from nominations of experts made by States Members of the United Nations on the following basis: seven members from African States; five members from Asian States; three members from Eastern European States; five members from Latin American States; six members from Western European and other States.

221. Pursuant to the procedure established in Council resolution 1986/35, members of the Sub-Commission were to be elected for a term of four years and half of its membership and the corresponding alternates, if any, were to be elected every two years.

222. As the term of office of half of the membership of the Sub-Commission has expired, the Commission is called upon to elect Sub-Commission members and alternates in accordance with the following pattern: four members from African States; two members from Asian States; two members from Eastern European States; two members from Latin American States; and three members from Western European and other States.

223. At its fifty-second session, the Commission will have before it a note by the Secretary-General (E/CN.4/1996/104 and addenda) containing the names and biographical data of the candidates nominated for election by Member States.

224. In its resolution 1993/28, the Commission called upon States to nominate as members and alternates persons meeting the criteria of independent experts, who should discharge in that capacity their functions as members of the Sub-Commission. The Sub-Commission, in its resolution 1987/32, recommended that the Commission on Human Rights try and prevail upon all Governments to nominate more women for election to the Sub-Commission.

225. The attention of the Commission is drawn to Economic and Social Council resolution 1983/32, by which the Council decided that, notwithstanding paragraph 2 of article 13 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Council, certain rules should henceforth apply to the

Sub-Commission. Under these rules, the nomination of a candidate for membership of the Sub-Commission may be accompanied by a nomination of an expert of the same nationality, to be elected simultaneously with the candidate for membership, who may serve temporarily as an alternate if the member is unable to attend; the qualifications for alternates are to be the same as for members and no person may serve as an alternate for a member except the expert so elected.

Item 23. Draft provisional agenda for the fifty-third session of the Commission

226. Rule 9 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council provides that, at each session of the Commission, the Secretary-General shall submit a draft provisional agenda for the Commission's subsequent session, indicating in respect of each agenda item the documents to be submitted under that item and the legislative authority for their preparation, in order to enable the Commission to consider the documents from the point of view of their contribution to its work and of their urgency and relevance in the light of the current situation.

227. The Commission will have before it, before the conclusion of the fifty-second session, a note for its consideration containing a draft provisional agenda for its fifty-third session, together with information concerning the corresponding documentation (E/CN.4/1996/L.1).

Item 24. Report to the Economic and Social Council on the fifty-second session of the Commission

228. Rule 37 of the rules of procedure provides that the Commission shall submit to the Council a report, which shall normally not exceed 32 pages, on the work of each session containing a concise summary of recommendations and a statement of issues requiring action by the Council. It shall as far as practicable frame its recommendations and resolutions in the form of drafts for approval by the Council.

Annex

LIST OF THEMATIC AND COUNTRY SPECIFIC PROCEDURES OF THE COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS (PREPARED IN ACCORDANCE WITH COMMISSION RESOLUTION 1995/87)

Country specific procedures

Afghanistan	Mr. Choong-Hyun Paik (Republic of Korea)	Special Rapporteur
Burundi	Mr. Paolo Pinheiro (Brazil)	Special Rapporteur
Cuba	Mr. Carl J. Groth (Sweden)	Special Rapporteur
Equatorial Guinea	Mr. Alejandro Artucio (Uruguay)	Special Rapporteur
Iraq	Mr. Max van der Stoel (Netherlands)	Special Rapporteur
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	M. Maurice Copithorne (Canada)	Special Representative of the Secretary-General
Myanmar	Mr. Yozo Yokota (Japan)	Special Rapporteur
Palestinian territories occupied since 1967	Mr. Hannu Halinen (Finland)	Special Rapporteur
Rwanda	Mr. René Dégni-Seguí (Côte d'Ivoire)	Special Rapporteur
Sudan	Mr. Gáspár Bíro (Hungary)	Special Rapporteur
Territory of the former Yugoslavia	Ms. Elisabeth Rehn (Finland)	Special Rapporteur
Zaire	Mr. Roberto Garretón (Chile)	Special Rapporteur

Thematic procedures

Contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination and xenophobia	Mr. Maurice Glèlè-Ahanhanzo (Benin)	Special Rapporteur

Extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions	Mr. Bacre N'diaye (Senegal)	Special Rapporteur
Freedom of opinion and expression	Mr. Abid Hussain (India)	Special Rapporteur
Independence of judges and lawyers	Mr. Param Cumaraswamy (Malaysia)	Special Rapporteur
Internally displaced persons	Mr. Francis Deng (Sudan)	Representative of the Secretary-General
Mercenaries	Mr. Bernales Ballesteros (Peru)	Special Rapporteur
Religious intolerance	Mr. Abdelfattah Amor (Tunisia)	Special Rapporteur
Sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography	Ms. Ofelia Calcetas-Santos (Philippines)	Special Rapporteur
Special process dealing with missing persons in the former Yugoslavia	Mr. Manfred Nowak (Austria)	Expert
Torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment	Mr. Nigel Rodley (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland)	Special Rapporteur
Toxic wastes	Ms. Fatma Zohra Ksentini (Algeria)	Special Rapporteur
Violence against women, its causes and consequences	Ms. Radhika Coomaraswamy (Sri Lanka)	Special Rapporteur
Working Group on Arbitrary Detention	(Chairman: Mr. Louis Joinet (France))	
Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances	(Chairman: Mr. Ivan Tosevski (The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia))	

Technical cooperation programme

Cambodia	Mr. Michael Kirby (Australia)	Special Representative of the Secretary-General
Guatemala	Ms. Mónica Pinto (Argentina)	Independent expert
Haiti	Mr. Adama Dieng (Senegal)	Independent expert
Somalia	Mr. Mohammed Charfi (Tunisia)	Independent expert

"1503 procedure"

Armenia/Azerbaijan	Mr. Hugh Templeton (New Zealand)	Independent expert
Chad	Ms. N'Douré M'Bam Diarra (Mali)	Independent expert

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